

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

Ohio State Engineer

Title: The Engineer's Bookshelf

Creators: Dumble, Wilson R.

Issue Date: Oct-1934

Publisher: Ohio State University, College of Engineering

Citation: Ohio State Engineer, vol. 18, no. 1 (October, 1934), 5-6.

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/35153>

Appears in Collections: [Ohio State Engineer: Volume 18, no. 1 \(October, 1934\)](#)

The Engineer's Bookshelf

By Wilson R. Dumble

SO RED THE ROSE—by Stark Young—Scribner's (\$2.50).

GOD'S LITTLE ACRE—by Erskine Caldwell—Modern Library (95c).

CAPE FAREWELL—by Harry Martinsson—Putnam (\$2.50)

Football

WITH the arrival of the crisp days come the thoughts of football and its thrilling season. Teams have been playing for several weeks now. Even on August twenty-eighth when I was visiting on the Eastern Shore of Maryland I saw the Navy football team at work on their fields at Annapolis. And they were not wearing track suits either; they were in full football regalia even that early in the season.

The football schedule for the present season presages one of the most interesting and stirring and no doubt, financially successful campaigns in the history of the game. In almost every instance teams have gone out of their way to engage opponents of equal or greater strength. Intersectional contests are numerous and of such a caliber as to attract a high degree of interest and a large return at the gate.

Edwin B. Dooley, writing in the New York Evening Sun on Saturday, August 4, said that:

"Every part of the country that is on the gridiron map is assured of football spectacles of a high order. New York in particular, with the best schedule it has had in years, will see a number of the leading teams in the circuit opposing home talent. New England, the South, the Big Ten Conference and the Far West have cards that compare favorably with the finest programs of other years."

Ohio State has the finest prospects for success. From the opening game with Indiana on October 6 to the finale with Iowa on November 24, the season should run high with excitement and throw Columbus once more into that delightful football hysteria dating back to the good days of Chic Harley and old Ohio Field on North High Street.

So Red the Rose

One of the keenest pleasures I have had during the past summer was the reading of Stark Young's novel, *So Red the Rose*. Although some of my colleagues in the Department of English have disagreed with me on the subject, I found the Young novel a superb book. It is the story of the trials of two Southern families of the gentry class in Mississippi during the Civil War, and

acts as a kind of chronicle of the times from the Southern viewpoint. The characters are alive, very much alive, and strut across the scene with splendid reality. To me they were more like people than the characters in the recent *Long Remember* by Mr. McKinley, review in this column last Spring.

I frankly admit that Mr. Young's style at times is rather turgid, but not to the extent that it spoils the story. Mr. Young has fine dramatic sense, knowing the value of such an incident and how to use it. For many years he has been dramatic critic for *The New Republic*.

God's Little Acre

If one is really interested in the recent textile strike which has swept certain portions of the East and the South, I feel sure they would be interested also in a book that was published first in the late winter of 1933. It is not the latest piece of fiction from the press, but it might be as timely as anything that has been published during the last few weeks. I am referring to Erskine Caldwell's *God's Little Acre*. When it was first published the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice, through its agent, Mr. John S. Sumner, brought an action for its suppression on an obscenity charge. Immediately writers, critics and men and women in public life rallied to the support of the book, and Magistrate Benjamin Greenspan, in a memorable opinion, summarily dismissed the case, declaring that the book was very clearly not a work of pornography.

I remembered all of this when the book was published but for various reasons never read it until I was at the Shore this summer. Apparently others remembered the book, too, for when I appeared on the porch of this very respectable hotel where I was staying at the time I read it, the noses of a number of the nice old ladies went high in the air, and they failed to offer any comment about the piece as they had done previously with books I had been reading.

God's Little Acre is an attempt at the portrayal, in a realistic fashion, of life as lived by an illiterate Southern white family, which, apparently the author knows so well. A daughter of this family is married to a worker in a Southern mill town, and the reader finds inter-action between the run-down farm life and the mill town life. Both on the farm and in the mill town the people are primitive and impoverished. They are deprived of the opportunity for development, are of a simple nature and possess a savage passion which is found close to the surface.

Mr. Caldwell first started writing in 1930 and to date has published two novels, two novelettes and two groups

of short stories. He attended the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, but since his graduation has been spending his winters in Georgia and his summers in Maine. His 1932 novel *Tobacco Road* has been successfully dramatized and is still running in New York, while his recent collection of short stories, *We Are the Living*, proved to be a best seller last season.

Cape Farewell

One of the most entertaining books of travel and adventure that I have read in many a day is Harry Martinsson's *Cape Farewell*. The reader is taken aboard the S. S. IONOPOLIS at Pensacola, Florida, and swished away to South America, to India and to China. He meets women and negroes and mountains and poetry and flees and he returns a better man for it all.

It is intense, fierce, individual, modern; and yet, in it is the grandness that one gets upon first looking into Joseph Conrad's *Nigger of the Narcissus*.

Mr. Martinsson, the author, has never written before. He is a Swede, and the book is a translation invested with the rhythm in the passages that is necessary to make it what it is.

Cape Farewell is exceedingly entertaining reading. I can thoroughly recommend it.

Hepburnianna

Ever since Miss Katharine Hepburn came to my talkie attention in *A Bill of Divorcement* a couple of years ago I have been following her work with a feverish delight. Suffice to say that I was pleased with *Little Women*, yet the bubble was pricked with her personal Broadway appearance last winter in *The Lake*. This summer the bubble burst in the usual way. Yet possibly, it was not in the usual way. Nevertheless, this is my part of the story.

During the first week in August when I was loitering about the New England States, I chanced upon the information that Miss Hepburn would appear in person at one of the numerous summer theatres. She was to do a new play, *Dark Victory*, at the Ivorytown summer playhouse; but just as I was figuring with my pocketbook to see if I could loiter about for ten days more, I learned that something had gone wrong. It seems that . . . but let the Associated Press, in an article from Ivorytown, Conn., under the date of August 2, tell the story:

"Katharine Hepburn, stage and screen star, today was the center of a controversy which threatens to reach major proportions here.

The Hartford girl, who starred in "Little Women" and other screen successes, was slated to make her return to the legitimate next week on the stage where she made her professional debut here several years ago.

Just as rehearsals for the play "Dark Victory" were under way, Stanley Ridges, who was to take the leading male role, withdrew from the cast, explaining he was forced to do so because of illness in his family.

Play is Canceled

This made a "Waterloo" out of "Dark Victory" because the play was canceled. Lawrence Anhalt, manager

of the New York players, the Ivorytown Summer Theatre Company, yesterday said Alexander McKaig, New York producer, who had contracted to supply him with the play, and Miss Hepburn had repudiated the contract.

Meanwhile, Miss Hepburn last night sent Anhalt a letter signed, "Affectionately, Katharine," which she asked he read to the audience. In it she told of the difficulty of filling the male role and said her studio had given her permission to come from Hollywood for "Dark Victory," otherwise she would have been anxious to present some other play.

Offers Apologies

"Failing this, I can only offer my apologies," Miss Hepburn wrote.

"I hope that you will not think I have cried 'Wolf' once too often. I am still determined to appear for you, but I suppose neither you nor your audience will believe this.

"I can only hope," asserted Miss Hepburn, "when it does happen it will be worth the fuss and trouble I have caused."

And thus vanished the Hepburn bubble!

New Auto Lamps Aid Streamlining

Modern trends in automobile streamlining find another advocate in a new prefocused lamp that permits smaller headlights and contributes to better styling of car fronts.

Streamlining the headlight requires reflectors of smaller diameter. In order to obtain a desirable reflector, efficiency with these smaller designs, it has been necessary to reduce their focal length to $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches, which is from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inches shorter than in the conventional type reflectors. Consequently, the light center had to be positioned more accurately so as to preserve light control, hence the new prefocusing base.

In Westinghouse Mazda Headlight lamps, the new prefocusing base consists of a collar rigidly fastened to the base. Three slots unequally spaced around this collar are engaged by three small pins projecting through the flat section at the apex of the headlight reflector. Springs behind the reflector exert a pressure in these pins to hold the bulb firmly in position. Since the pins and slots are spaced unequally, the lamp can only be inserted when they match in the correct position. The lamp is inserted the same way as the standard bayonet base bulb, namely by pushing in and rotating clockwise to engage the pins in the slot openings.

Where, in the past, automobile headlight lamps were positioned to an accuracy of only $4/100$ inches, the new lamp is held within $1/100$ th of an inch. The filaments are mounted in the lamp with the utmost of accuracy in relation to the collar. During manufacture the filament position in the lamp must pass the focal gauge test in which it is projected onto a screen that magnifies it 20 times.

The new prefocused base headlight lamps, in making possible smaller auto headlamps without loss of lighting efficiency, are expected to contribute largely to progress of streamlining since it is the front of cars which must perhaps undergo the greatest transformation in style changes.